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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs through an expanded outreach programme developed in the substantive priority areas of: (a) weapons of mass destruction; and (b) conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The report also records the activities carried out by the Department of Public Information within the framework of the Programme.

In implementing the Programme, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has increasingly made use of the Internet to make information available to a wide spectrum of users. Its extensive web site has also been updated to make it more attractive and more user-friendly.

In keeping with the Secretary-General's policy of strengthening ties with civil society, the Disarmament Information Programme has further intensified its interaction with non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

* A/57/150.

** The present report covers activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme for the period from July 2000 to June 2002.

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I. Introduction

1. By resolution 55/34 A, adopted without a vote on 20 November 2000, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers activities of the Programme for the period from July 2000 to June 2002.

2. The United Nations Disarmament Information Programme is administered principally by the Monitoring, Database and Information Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Its funding is derived from the regular budget, as well as from extrabudgetary resources, in particular the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme, the status of which will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

3. The Disarmament Information Programme reflects the priorities of the work programme of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, focusing, in particular, on weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. Another priority area is that of conventional weapons, the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and light weapons and the disarmament-development perspective. The following sections indicate how the Programme has addressed these concerns through publications, symposiums, exhibits and other activities, especially in connection with the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was held in July 2001, the preparatory process for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which began in April 2002, and the Review Conference itself.

4. The adoption of the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects will certainly have an impact on the Programme over the next biennium. At the same time, the recommendations of the United Nations studies on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229) and on disarmament and non-proliferation education, when endorsed by the General Assembly, will serve as a practical guide to the future work of the Programme.

5. Over the past few years, in keeping with the Secretary-General's desire to strengthen the United Nations ties with civil society, the Programme has intensified its interaction with various segments of the public, principally non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutes. The Programme has worked closely with civil society in facilitating its participation in major international conferences, including the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and review conferences of multilateral disarmament agreements, including the April 2002 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference, as well as the two expert study groups on the issue of missiles and on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

II. Information and education resources

A. Publications

6. The Department continued to maintain a core publication programme, including the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the occasional paper series and the quarterly *DDA Update*. Its ad hoc publications focus on topical issues, including terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, small arms destruction, children and disarmament and gender perspectives. In collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Department has published a basic primer on disarmament.

7. The Department has also made increasing use of its web site to provide easier and quicker access to information on the debates and developments in multilateral disarmament forums. For example, the *DDA Update* and the occasional paper series are available online within one day of their completion, while the print versions may take 3 to 4 weeks to reproduce. The Department continues to update its electronic mailing lists so as to be able to alert the Programme constituents to recent postings of its publications.

8. The Department has introduced some innovations to its publications during the period under review. For example, the twenty-sixth edition of the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, in 2001, included a section

covering the resolutions relating to disarmament and human rights. In addition, some graphic material has been added to the customary text format. In the next biennium, the Department is planning to introduce more graphic presentations in the *Disarmament Yearbook*. As of 2001, the occasional paper series is being posted on the web site. A French language version of *DDA Update* is now being produced and distributed, which the Department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, is having posted on the French pages of the United Nations web site.

9. In cooperation with the Publications Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information, a survey is under way to explore the level of interest of libraries and research institutes in receiving the *Disarmament Yearbook* on CD-ROM or online via the Internet. The Department will conduct a similar survey with the principal audience of the *Yearbook*, that is, permanent missions and governmental representatives in the First Committee, as well as among members of the Conference on Disarmament. The results, which should be available in early 2003, will help to determine the utility and level of interest in the publication, as well as whether there is a need for a different method of delivery.

10. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the Department for Disarmament Affairs produced a poster to publicize the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The two Departments also collaborated in the production of a double-sided teaching poster on all topics of multilateral disarmament, based on the disarmament segment of the guided tour route (opened in October 2000 by the United Nations Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas). The poster is a carry-away item for teachers and students. One side depicts the urgent disarmament challenges, while the other the efforts under way to resolve them. The poster was also posted on the Department's web site.

11. The publications listed below have been produced from 1 January to 30 June 2002. A list of the Department's publications is maintained on its web site, as well as on the web site of the Department of Public Information. A list of publications issued in 2000 and 2001 appears in the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth editions of the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*.

(a) *DDA Update*, December 2001 and March/April 2002;

(b) Brochure on "Children and disarmament" (produced in conjunction with the special session of the General Assembly on children, May 2002);

(c) *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*: A two-sided poster on all issues of disarmament based on the disarmament segment of the United Nations guided tour.

12. The following publications will be issued during the biennium 2002-2003:

(a) *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, 2001*, and *2002*;

(b) *DDA Update*, quarterly in 2002 and 2003;

(c) Occasional paper No. 6: Disarmament agenda for the twenty-first century;

(d) Study Series: Study on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229); Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;

(e) DDA/NGO publication on panel discussions;

(f) Nobel voices on disarmament, audio-documentary.

B. Web site

13. During the reporting period, the Department redesigned its web site to render it more issue-oriented. It includes core issues such as weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and regional disarmament. The web site also contains articles on emerging issues such as the linkage of disarmament with terrorism, as well as on gender and children.

14. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the web site was also used for publicizing or disseminating information and developments on major disarmament-related conferences, including the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the 2001 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the April 2002 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the first

two cases mentioned above, information was posted in all official United Nations languages.

15. The Department's web site is frequently used. On an average off-peak month, there are approximately 6,590 visitors to the web site, totalling 98,758 hits. The number of visitors can triple during preparations for and during the session of the General Assembly. The most visited features are the disarmament databases, in particular those giving resolutions and decisions of the First Committee and the status of disarmament and arms regulation agreements. The Department plans to undertake a more detailed and long-term monitoring of web traffic to gather statistics on regional usage of the web site and on which aspects of the site are more frequently used. Such regular monitoring will improve the Department's understanding of the kind of information that is needed as well as on how to better deliver it.

16. Based on the statistics cited above, the Department gave added attention to the following disarmament databases, which are an important information resource for Member States, NGOs and other institutions:

(a) General Assembly resolutions and decisions on disarmament items (including voting patterns and sponsors);

(b) Status of disarmament and arms regulation agreements;

(c) Submissions of Member States to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized reporting on military expenditures;

(d) Reports submitted under article 7 by States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

17. Also added to the web site is an educational resource section that covers the progress of work of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. The educational resource section also highlights a power-point presentation on peace and disarmament and the electronic version of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*, a two-sided poster based on the disarmament segment of the guided tour, and a page of related links to education and information programmes of related research and educational institutions and organizations.

18. Looking ahead, the Department plans to provide Member States with the option of submitting national reports online through authenticated Internet access. This will include submissions to the standardized reporting on military expenditures and the Register of Conventional Arms. In cooperation with the Department of Public Information and the Publications Board working group on Internet matters, the Department is examining ways to expand the multilingual version of its web site. It is also planning to expand the educational resource section of the web site in line with the recommendations of the above-mentioned Group of Governmental Experts, as endorsed by the General Assembly. Both initiatives will depend on the availability of funds and human resources.

C. Exhibits

19. In conjunction with the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the following exhibits were organized and displayed at United Nations Headquarters:

(a) The Gun Sculpture, comprising more than 7,000 deactivated small arms and light weapons welded together to form the walls, ceiling and floor of a room-sized box, together with a video presentation, a wall of victims and a long blackboard to record the thoughts and reflections of visitors and on-site volunteers. It was displayed in the General Assembly public lobby during the Conference in July and for a good part of August 2001. The exhibit was assembled by a group of artists in Edmonton, Canada, and brought to the United Nations with the assistance of the Permanent Mission of Canada;

(b) A collection of photographs of the victims of gun violence, called the "Mural of Pain". This exhibit, organized by Viva Rio, an NGO, highlighted the impact of small arms upon civilian populations in Brazil;

(c) The International Action Network on Small Arms, in cooperation with the Department, displayed a series of posters relating to the illicit trade in small arms, with special emphasis on children. The Network also facilitated an exhibit of replicas of pistols, handguns and larger light weaponry. The exhibit also contained posters and related materials dealing with the

illicit arms trade in Africa, along with large photographs of child soldiers employing these weapons;

(d) An exhibit, entitled "Transforming Arms into Ploughshares", comprising a variety of sculptures, fashioned entirely from decommissioned weapons, depicting everyday animals, furniture, toys and musical instruments. The exhibit was presented jointly by the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Council of Christian Churches of Mozambique and the Permanent Mission of Mozambique;

(e) An exhibit, entitled "Taking Aim at Small Arms: Defending Children's Rights". Initiated in 1999 as a joint production of the Department and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the exhibit was overhauled and updated for display at the Conference. It highlights the dramatic impact on women and children of the excessive availability of small arms. In addition to being displayed at Headquarters and UNICEF House, the exhibit has travelled to Winnipeg, Canada, Bamako, Mali, and the Principality of Andorra (see www.unicef.org).

20. Among upcoming plans for joint exhibits by the Department and the Department of Public Information will be a commemoration of the artistic process that led to the development of the Twisted Gun Sculpture in 2003.

III. Information and education activities

A. Panel discussions, symposiums and film showings

21. During the reporting period, the Department continued the series of discussions initiated in 1998 on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating a meaningful discussion of the issues among Member States and civil society (see table 1 below). In most instances, the presentations made at the symposiums were or are being produced as publications and posted on the Department's web site in order to extend their outreach. In cooperation with other organizations, screening of films on disarmament-related issues was also arranged.

22. The themes for upcoming events will revolve around the issues of the prevention of an arms race in outer space, disarmament and non-proliferation education, disarmament and development and disarmament as humanitarian action.

B. International conference

23. In collaboration with the Government of China, in April 2002, the Department organized an international conference, entitled "A disarmament agenda for the twenty-first century", in Beijing. Security experts and diplomats from around the world discussed defence doctrines, nuclear disarmament, outer space issues, missile proliferation and defence and conventional arms. The discussion papers presented to the conference will be published as occasional paper No. 6.

C. Disarmament and non-proliferation education

1. Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

24. During the period under review, the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education held four sessions. Their study is to be submitted to the current session of the Assembly.

25. To help better understand the current situation in disarmament education, the Group carried out an informal survey of current programmes in disarmament and non-proliferation education among Governments, research and educational institutes and NGOs, which indicated that, though there were few programmes entirely devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation studies at all levels of education, there was a wealth of information available. It concluded that the information was not easily accessible in a pedagogical format and was predominantly in English.

26. On the premise that education was the responsibility of all, the experts opened their deliberations by inviting members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to attend meetings and review the draft of the study. In recognition of the

Table 1

16 October 2000	Premiere of the video documentary *Armed to the Teeth* (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Department of Public Information)
17 October 2000	Disarmament as humanitarian action (Department for Disarmament Affairs/United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research)
31 January 2001	The revolution in military affairs: implications for disarmament and the United Nations (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters)
5 February 2001	Assessing the verifiability of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, report of Independent Commission on the Verifiability of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre)
7 March 2001	Screening of *Thirteen Days* and discussion with Ted Sorensen, Special Adviser to President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Global Security Institute)
14 March 2001	Gender perspectives on disarmament (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women)
26 April 2001	Armed conflict, military expenditure and development (Department for Disarmament Affairs and Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
17 October 2001	Lessons for today from the Cuban missile crisis, discussion with former United States Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Global Security Institute)
23 October 2001	Terrorism and disarmament (Department for Disarmament Affairs)
30 January 2002	The Biological Weapons Convention and Bioterrorism (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters)

important role that the United Nations can play in this area, the experts also invited United Nations offices, agencies and programmes to participate in the drafting of the study. The experts also invited more than 36 representatives from educational institutions at the secondary, tertiary and post-graduate levels from different parts of the world and from NGOs and research institutes specializing in disarmament education and information, as well as media representatives, to interact with it and review the draft. The Group met in three different locations — New York, Monterey, California, and Geneva — in order to allow a diversity of views from different regions to be expressed. The Group also made use of the Department's web site to post, for public use, the annexes to the study containing, among other things, the results of the survey and a page on educational resources brought to its attention with electronic hyperlinks to the web sites of many related organizations and programmes.

27. Following the endorsement by the General Assembly of the recommendations of the study, the Department will use those recommendations applicable to it as a guide to the educational aspect of the Disarmament Information Programme for the next two years. It will participate actively, as called for by the study, towards greater harmonization and coordination of the educational work among United Nations agencies, programmes and organizations.

2. Initiatives for disarming youth: peace and disarmament education project

28. With a generous grant from the United Nations Foundation, the Department, in partnership with the Hague Appeal for Peace, conducted a six-month planning project, from December 2001 to June 2002, involving visits to N'Guigimi, Niger; Lima; and Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia, to lay the groundwork for a two-year programme entitled "Peace and Disarmament Education: Sustaining Weapons Collection Programmes and Preventing Violence". A formal grant proposal was made to the United Nations Foundation for the two-year project. Funding was also requested from Governments participating in the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures, as well as from other Governments. With strong emphasis on teacher training, the objective of the education programme is to introduce the topics of peace, disarmament and small arms awareness in pre-existing curriculum. The purpose is to empower young people to choose peace and disarmament, and not weapons, to resolve conflict, thereby consolidating the gains of the weapons collection programmes and removing obstacles to development and prosperity. Some of the participants will be former combatants and unemployed and disaffected youth.

3. International Association of University Presidents

29. The Department continued its support for, and participated in, meetings held by the International Association of University Presidents and the Commission for Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace at Headquarters and in other countries. The former President of the Commission participated in the second session of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education and provided advice on the challenges of creating disarmament education programmes at the university level.

D. Activities in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

30. UNIDIR works in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs pursuant to article 1 of the statute of the Institute. The Department is responsible for the selection of the Institute's Board of Trustees and organizes its meetings. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters serves as the Board of Trustees of the Institute. The statute also requires UNIDIR to consult with the Department on budgetary matters.

31. During the reporting period, the Department and the Institute increased coordination of information and education activities. They initiated a series entitled "Disarmament as Humanitarian Action" in October 2000 and will continue with a combined programme of research papers and public panel discussions in 2002 and 2003. UNIDIR participated, in a consultative role, in the 2001 study on ammunition and explosives as well as in the 2002 study on the issue of missiles in all its aspects. UNIDIR also contributed actively to the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation

education and will closely collaborate in the future study on information security.

E. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace

32. Since his appointment as Messenger of Peace by the Secretary-General on 30 July 1998, Michael Douglas has continued to support the United Nations in general, and nuclear disarmament and small arms control in particular, in his press interviews.

33. On the occasion of her appointment as Messenger of Peace in April 2002, Jane Goodall, the renowned primatologist and environmentalist, seized the opportunity to stress the negative environmental impact of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and nuclear weapons testing.

F. Briefings

34. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information, staff members of the Department undertook approximately 30 briefing engagements per year for the benefit of: (a) student visitors in the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) Foreign Ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; (e) visiting members of NGOs.

IV. Cooperation with civil society

35. The Department carried out numerous activities that are described below. In addition, it maintained close contact on an ongoing basis with a number of major NGO coalitions, among them Reaching Critical Will, the International Action Network on Small Arms, the International Peace Bureau, Educators for Social Responsibility, *Hidankyo*, a coalition of Japanese NGOs representing the survivors of the atomic bomb and research institutes. In connection with the peace and disarmament education project, the Department collaborated with the Hague Appeal for Peace, which comprises more than 1,000 organizations worldwide.

36. In view of the crisis in funding that many disarmament NGOs were experiencing, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs addressed a letter of appeal to major foundations, stressing the need for them to maintain support for disarmament activities at a time when the value of multilateral disarmament agreements was being questioned and negotiations were at a standstill.

37. The Department cooperated with the NGO Committee on Disarmament and the Department of Public Information in conducting a number of panel discussions in the fall of 2000 and 2001 during Disarmament Week, and in the spring of 2002 during the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference. Discussions covered a wide range of topics. These included issues related to missiles; the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention; verifying the Chemical Weapons Convention; the human, environmental and military aspects of global security in the twenty-first century; a treaty to prohibit weapons and war in space; a new disarmament agenda for the twenty-first century; and new choices for security and prosperity.

38. The Department facilitated the publication of material arising from the joint events with the NGO Committee on Disarmament. Edited transcripts of discussions are available on http://www.igc.org/disarm/forum.html. The Department also collaborated with the NGO Committee on Disarmament in the publication of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*, in print and available on the Department's web site.

39. The Department facilitated the participation of NGOs in major disarmament-related conferences, including the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Conference itself, the 2001 Conference to Facilitate the Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference in April 2002. In collaboration with Member States and States parties, the Department also enabled NGOs to address delegations at open meetings set aside for the purpose, such as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and the Conference itself as well as the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference. The active participation of NGOs in disarmament-related conferences represented a dynamic and growing phenomenon as Governments increasingly recognize

not only the role of NGOs as advocates, but also their highly specialized expertise in certain fields.

40. The Department will continue to facilitate the participation of NGOs in disarmament-related conferences. It will continue to support NGO activities that seek to disseminate and advocate United Nations ideals and principles. It will also seek to further expand its collaboration with civil society in promoting arms limitation and disarmament.

V. Regional activities

41. The Department continued to work through its three regional centres, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the activities of which are contained in the respective reports of the Secretary-General (A/57/162, A/57/260 and A/57/116). The usefulness of the centres in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes has been reaffirmed by the General Assembly.

VI. Training

A. United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

42. As mandated by the General Assembly, the Department continued to implement the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme. The programme, designed to promote expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly developing countries, trained 58 diplomats in the reporting period (for details, see A/57/168).

B. Internships in the Department

43. In both New York and Geneva, the Department hosted and trained graduate students serving in different internship programmes at the United Nations (see table 2 below). The interns were distributed among the different branches of the Department according to their interests and the needs of the Department. Their assignments included: assisting in the organization and reporting on disarmament-related bodies; preparing background notes and bibliographies on subjects of topical interest; summarizing academic journals; organizing and advertising symposiums and panels; preparing analytical papers on peace and security issues; and assisting with the developing of branch databases. In selecting interns, the Department has endeavoured to achieve gender balance and geographical representation, especially of developing countries.

C. Cooperative monitoring workshops

44. In collaboration with the Cooperative Monitoring Center of the Sandia National Laboratories of the United States Department of Energy, the Department sponsored a workshop entitled "Useful technologies for peace operations and humanitarian assistance programmes" in June 2001 at Geneva. The purpose was to acquaint interested United Nations representatives with the concept of cooperative monitoring and shareable technologies useful in peace operations, humanitarian assistance and other United Nations programmes, with special emphasis on applications of cooperative monitoring technologies for arms control and disarmament. The workshop was a follow-up to four similar workshops held at Headquarters in February 2000.

VII. Activities of the Department of Public Information

A. Public information campaign

45. The Department of Public Information continued its efforts to help raise public awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and related issues. In cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and other members of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, the Department mounted a complex public information campaign to promote the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms, which resulted in widespread interest on the part of the media and civil society organizations in this event. A brochure, a poster and a press kit were produced and widely distributed. Immediately prior to the Conference, a flier, "Setting the Record Straight", was issued in order to address some common questions and misconceptions about the objectives of the Conference. All these materials were posted on a special web site specifically devoted to the Conference. A live web cast and coverage of the open

Table 2

United Nations Graduate Internship Programme	4-6 full-time interns	Period of 2-3 months	3 times a year
Monterey Institute of International Studies/Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies, United States of America	One full-time intern/New York	Duration of 6 months	Twice yearly
	One full-time intern/Geneva	Duration of 8 months	Once a year
Fordham University, United States of America	1 part-time intern	Duration of 2-3 months	Once a year
Nova Southeastern University Law School, United States of America	One (or two) full-time intern(s)	Duration of 2-3 months	Once a year
Columbia University/School of International and Public Affairs, United States of America	One part-time intern	Duration of 3 months	Twice a year

meetings was also arranged. On the first day of the Conference, 9 July 2001, which was designated as "Small Arms Destruction Day", the Department helped organize a special event at Headquarters, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands. A special exhibit called "ihuman: the Gun Sculpture", sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Canada, was arranged in the General Assembly public lobby. Another exhibit, "Transforming Arms into Ploughshares", sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Mozambique, was also put on display. The United Nations information centres and services led public information activities in the field, including translation and dissemination of materials into local languages and organization of events for diverse local audiences.

46. The Department also assisted Disarmament Affairs and the provisional technical secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in public information aspects of preparations for the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was held from 11 to 13 November 2001 at Headquarters in New York. The Department helped disseminate public information materials and facilitated press coverage of the Conference, including a pre-conference press briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and press conferences by the Conference President and the Public Information Chief of the provisional secretariat. Arrangements were also made for webcasts of the proceedings. In addition, the Department arranged for press coverage of the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which was held in Managua from 17 to 21 September 2001.

B. Radio and television

47. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information provided extensive coverage on a wide range of issues concerning disarmament and related issues in its daily news bulletins and current affairs magazines in the official and non-official languages. Its radio news programmes carried reports on the work of disarmament bodies: the Conference on Disarmament; the First Committee; the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms; the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference; as well as the activities of the parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. They covered a wide range of issues: the future of nuclear disarmament, the small arms trade, the impact of light weapons and small arms on socio-economic development, biological weapons, the nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa and Latin

America, United Nations efforts in demining, the anniversary of the atomic blasts on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and disarmament and various activities of the Disarmament Week.

48. In addition to news coverage, the Department of Public Information produced 24 magazine programmes in 10 languages on disarmament and 14 magazine programmes on the subject of small arms and light weapons in all the official languages of the United Nations and in Portuguese. These radio programmes were produced for regional and worldwide dissemination. In preparation for the 2005 Review Conference, the Department will continue to cover relevant news items and produces magazine and feature stories on the issue.

49. Disarmament issues were featured in a range of videos produced by the Department of Public Information: *UN in Action*, the ongoing series of newsmagazines distributed to more than 100 countries, and *World Chronicle*, the United Nations television discussion programme. In addition, the Department finalized the production of a documentary dealing with the aftermath of war. Entitled "Legacies of War", the documentary has been produced in English in a 31-minute version for the public, including schools and other educational institutions, and a 43-minute version for television broadcast. "Legacies of War" deals with tragic situations where civilians are left to face war's harsh consequences such as the menace of landmines or unexploded bombs, the destruction of normal society and deep psychological trauma. The documentary looks at the effect of war and war remnants on the civilian populations in Guatemala, Bosnia, the Sudan, Uganda, Kosovo and Mozambique.

C. Printed materials

50. The Department of Public Information produced extensive press coverage on disarmament topics in both New York and Geneva, including coverage of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms, issuing close to 200 press releases in both English and French, including background notes. In addition to press materials, the Department promoted awareness of disarmament through its regular publications: the *UN Chronicle*; the *Yearbook of the United Nations*; the two booklets *UN in Brief* and *Image and Reality*, currently being updated; as well as in *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, which contains an extensive section covering the full range of disarmament issues and the role of the United Nations in this field.

51. In the reporting period, the *UN Chronicle* also continued to publish materials on disarmament issues, including such articles as "Third Act of the Nuclear Era"; "States Can Be Made Accountable for Small Arms"; "Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: One Step Closer"; "Sustaining People-Centred Disarmament"; "Can Sources and Supplies of Small Arms and Light Weapons Be Traced?"; "A call against Arms: the Small Arms Conference"; "New Hope for Restricting Certain Conventional Weapons"; "CCW Review Conference Proposals"; and "Combating Biological Weapons". The *Africa Recovery* magazine and its online edition published an article on small arms entitled "Small Arms in Africa: Counting the Cost of Gun Violence". The chapter on disarmament of each volume of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* summarizes action taken by the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission and other United Nations bodies dealing with disarmament issues. Relevant General Assembly resolutions are reproduced in full.

D. Internet

52. The United Nations News Service on the United Nations home page provided regular news reports on disarmament issues, including extensive coverage of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms. Disarmament activities related to chemical and biological weapons were also highlighted on a special web page devoted to the fight against terrorism created on the United Nations News Centre site on the Internet. United Nations press releases on disarmament related issues and relevant publications are also available through the Internet.

E. Non-governmental organizations

53. Disarmament and related issues were also highlighted at the weekly briefings to NGOs, organized by the Department of Public Information at Headquarters. During the reporting period, special attention was given to the issue of small arms and light weapons. In addition, at the fifty-third annual DPI/NGO Conference, with the theme "Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation", held

on 28 to 30 August 2000, the issue of partnership between civil society, Governments and intergovernmental institutions in achieving disarmament goals was addressed, in particular by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. Disarmament issues will also be addressed at the fifty-fourth annual DPI/NGO Conference, "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility", to be held from 9 to 11 August 2002. One of the plenary sessions, "Demobilizing the War Machines: Making Peace Last", will be focusing specifically on disarmament and techniques for avoiding rearmament in post-conflict societies; "best practice" programmes for weapons collections; and destruction, demining and other relevant issues.

F. Public affairs

54. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information responded to 2,027 inquiries on disarmament-related issues. It arranged 38 briefings on the subject of disarmament for a variety of university, high school and NGO groups, reaching a total audience of 1,029. There were also 42 briefings on the issue of landmines, reaching an overall audience of 1,136 people. The refurbished disarmament exhibit, a major feature of the guided tour route, was attended by almost 605,182 visitors during the reporting period.

G. United Nations information centres

55. Most United Nations information centres, information services, and offices undertook a variety of information activities to promote the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and also translated the brochure and other information material produced in connection with the Conference. The United Nations Office in Minsk produced a leaflet highlighting the aims of the Conference, while the United Nations information centre in Lisbon produced an article.

56. On the issue of landmines, the information centre in Beirut organized interviews for the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon with CNN, Abu-Dhabi TV, Al-Manar TV, LBC TV, Radio France Internationale and United Nations Radio. The information centre in Lima assisted the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean with a two-day event on mine clearance; the centre in Rome assisted with the launch of the Landmine Monitor Report 2000; and the centre in Islamabad was involved in a fund-raising campaign to assist children affected by landmines.

57. The United Nations information centre in Beirut and other centres in the region arranged interviews for senior United Nations officials, issued press releases and also supported a two-day international demining workshop for Southern Lebanon. The information centre in Sydney promoted an Asia/Pacific regional conference on disarmament, which was held in New Zealand in March 2001, by issuing a press release and giving interviews to Singapore television and the Associated Press.

58. Disarmament was also a major part of the outreach programme of the information centres for the general public and educational institutions. Staff of the United Nations information centre in Nairobi visited a number of schools in the provinces and briefed more than 600 students on United Nations matters, providing information material on disarmament and screening videos produced by the Department of Public Information on the issue. These videos were also screened by a number of other centres. The information centre in Ouagadougou briefed senior army officers on United Nations peacekeeping and on disarmament, while the information centre in Mexico sponsored lectures on peacekeeping and disarmament to 350 students at the National University. Approximately 15,000 people participated in an open air event organized by the information centre in Rome and the Rome City Hall, which culminated in children symbolically burning weapons made of paper in a big bonfire. The centre in Vienna organized lecture programmes for students from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, military personnel, European armament experts, young diplomats from Eastern and Central Europe and university students from the Netherlands. Many of these public outreach initiatives were carried out to mark Disarmament Week.

59. Op-ed articles by the Under-Secretaries-General for Disarmament Affairs and for Economic and Social Affairs were placed in local newspapers by the United Nations information centres in Islamabad and New Delhi, while the information centre in Moscow organized the publication of an address by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament during a session of the Conference.

H. Other activities

60. The Department of Public Information participated in the sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. At the third session of the Group, held at Geneva, the Department provided substantial contributions to the report of the Group and assisted in organizing public hearings on the subject matter, to which the Department invited representatives of the media and media-related NGOs. Once the report of the Group is endorsed by the General Assembly, the Department will assist in publicizing the recommendations of the Group and will actively implement their recommendations within its areas of competence.

VIII. Conclusions

61. During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to disseminate information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. The Programme will continue to provide information on developments and efforts of the United Nations in the field.

62. During the reporting period, the Programme focused its attention on the dangers of the excessive proliferation of small arms, the destabilizing effects of such proliferation on the society of affected countries and the need for international action to respond to the problem. In close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, a broad-based information campaign was launched to promote the preparatory process, the convening and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Follow-up to the Conference has focused on supporting regional efforts to sustain the momentum of the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Conference.

63. Upon endorsement by the General Assembly of the report on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, the Department, mainly through the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, will seek to implement the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, to the extent that human and financial resources permit.

64. The role of civil society, especially NGOs, in multilateral disarmament conferences is steadily growing, as evidenced over the last several years by greater participation in meetings and a larger array of parallel events in connection with such meetings. This process will be further supported by the Department through the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

65. Recognizing the ever-increasing role of information technology, the Department will continue to further expand and improve its web site so as to make information accessible to a wide spectrum of users.